

Message Text

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64

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

NIC-01 OIC-04 DRC-01 /165 W
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R 141206Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7816

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 669

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM ICRC VN OAU NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN VIEWS ON ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA LAW OF WAR
CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 27026 (B) OSLO 514 (C) OSLO 268 (D) GENEVA 904

1. NORWEGIANS WILL PROBABLY ABSTAIN ON PRG REPRESENTATION
ISSUE AND WILL SEEK TO "MEDIATE" DISPUTE OVER AFRICAN LIBERATION
MOVEMENT ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. NORWAY
FAVORS SEPARATE OBSERVER REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION BY OAU-
RECOGNIZED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BUT WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS. DCM
COMMUNICATED US VIEWS TO ACTING DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
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POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (EDWARDSSEN) ON FEB. 13 AS INSTRUCTED REF A.

ALSO PRESENT WERE HANS LONGVA OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT, A MEMBER OF NORWEGIAN DELEGATION TO CONFERENCE, AND JAN NYHEIM, CHIEF OF SECOND POLITICAL DIVISION (AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA).

2. ON PRG, EDWARDSSEN STATED THAT NORWAY LAMENTS TENDENCY TO ESTABLISH LEGITIMACY OF GOVERNMENTS AT SUCH CONFERENCES BUT POINTED OUT THAT SUBSTANCE OF THIS CONFERENCE PUTS IT IN "SPECIAL CATEGORY". EDWARDSSEN REITERATED ARGUMENT, WHICH WE HEAR WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY IN OSLO THESE DAYS, THAT "NORWEGIAN PUBLIC OPINION IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ON THIS ISSUE" AND THAT NORWAY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT VOTE AGAINST AN INVITATION TO PRG. HE SAID FINAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE BUT HIS BEST GUESS IS THAT NORWAY WILL ABSTAIN.

3. LONGVA DELIVERED LENGTHY DISCOURSE ON BACKGROUND OF NORWEGIAN POSITION ON AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. SUMMED UP, NORWEGIANS PLAN TO ADOPT LOW PROFILE AT GENEVA IN EFFORT TO MEDIATE DISPUTE AND AVOID DISRUPTIVE CONFRONTATION. NORWAY CLEARLY FAVORS SEPARATE REPRESENTATION (I.E., NOT AS OBSERVERS ATTACHED TO OAU DELEGATION) AND "FULL" PARTICIPATION IN DELIBERATIONS FOR OAU-RECOGNIZED MOVEMENTS BUT OPPOSES VOTING RIGHTS FOR THEM. NORWAY FEELS THAT AFRICANS WILL NOT INSIST UPON VOTING RIGHTS AS CONFERENCE IF "ADEQUATE COMMITTEE" REACHED. EDWARDSSEN HASTENED TO ADD THAT NORWAY IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT LEGAL PRECEDENT OR CONSISTENCY IN POLICY MATTERS CONCERNING AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY OAU WHICH NORWAY SEES IN A PURELY "COLONIAL" CONTEXT.

4. NORWEGIAN DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR EDWARD HAMBRO, NORWEGIAN PERMREP IN GENEVA, WHOM NORWEGIANS PLAN TO NOMINATE TO CHAIR ONE OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES. DEPUTY CHIEF OF DELEGATION WILL BE EINAR-FREDERIK OFSTAD, AMBASSADOR IN BONN (WHO HEADED NORWEGIAN DELEGATION TO TEHRAN CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER). OTHERS INCLUDE HANS LONGVA FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY; THOMAS KROG, A WEAPONS SPECIALIST EMPLOYED BY NORWEGIAN DEFENSE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT; LT. COL. KJELL MODAHL FROM NORWEGIAN DEFENSE COMMAND; HAAKON MATHIESEN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NORWEGIAN RED CROSS; AND ASBJORN EIDE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORWEGIAN PEACE

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